

Doolittle Committee

DOOLITTLE ENDS STUDY OF C. I. A.

His Inquiry for the President
Centered on the Agency's
'Sensitive' Operations

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (UP)

—Lieut. Gen. James H. Doolittle has completed a secret check-up on the "sensitive" operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

President Eisenhower's press secretary, James C. Hagerty, said today the retired general, who was one of the air heroes of World War II, was asked by the President to look at certain phases of the work of the C. I. A. and he has now completed this study.

Mr. Hagerty would not say what phases were covered although he later described them as "sensitive" or super-secret aspects of the agency's work. He emphasized, however, that General Doolittle's study as a personal representative of the Pres-

ident in no way duplicated or conflicted with the inquiry to be made by a task force of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, headed by former President Hoover.

Since this investigation, scheduled to get under way next week, will concentrate on the organizational set-up of the C. I. A., it was assumed that General Doolittle centered his attention on the agency's undercover intelligence work overseas. The new inquiry will be headed by Gen. Mark W. Clark.

Dr. John's Case Recalled

Specifically, it was suggested in informed circles, General Doolittle may have looked into the recent defection to East Germany of Dr. Otto John, former East German security chief. Dr. John apparently carried many of the Communists.

In this connection, Mr. Hagerty declined to confirm or deny reports that General Doolittle visited West Germany last month and conferred with C. I. A. officers there.

The Clark task force, which is scheduled to hold an organizational meeting here next week,

was created after Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, threatened to conduct an investigation of what he termed Communist influences in the intelligence unit.

No Action Taken by Senate

Mr. McCarthy later had a luncheon meeting with the C. I. A. director, Allen W. Dulles, and the Senate investigation did not materialize.

Speculation that General Doolittle looked into the strange case of Dr. John was prompted in part by the fact that this defection is regarded here now as one of the most glaring intelligence failures in recent years.

So great was the consternation here when Dr. John went over to the Communists on July 30, that the word was passed for a while that he had been kidnapped. This line was dropped after he appeared at a Communist-sponsored press conference

in East Berlin and proclaimed himself a voluntary turncoat.

Dr. John was in a position to know the detailed operations of Western intelligence agencies. His defection was a serious blow to Allied intelligence activities since it was assumed that he was able to give the Communists names of agents working for the West behind the Iron Curtain.

In May and June, just before his defection, Dr. John spent some time in the United States under sponsorship of unidentified "U. S. Government agencies." He was guest of honor at a private dinner given by Mr. Dulles and met officials of the State and Defense Departments and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

HS/FC-180